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Princeton pair linked to CIA mind-test pay

By DAVID MORRIS

Two Princeton University researchers were paid a total of \$4,075 by the Central Intelligence Agency during the 1950s for studies that were part of a CIA secret project aimed at developing behavior modification techniques, documents released yesterday by the university indicate.

In the spring of 1953, an unidentified researcher affiliated with the Department of Chemistry at Princeton was paid \$765 to isolate alkaloid chemicals in a species of morning glory plants.

According to a CIA memo, dated April 24, 1953, and another undated memo, the alkaloids were to be isolated for a study of "powerful, hypnotic and mentally disorienting effects" on the nervous system of human beings.

However, no references to actual experiments conducted on people were made in the documents.

The 1958 study, in which materials were compiled comparing American culture with that of an unnamed country, was conducted by another unidentified Princeton-affiliated researcher who apparently was unaware of the CIA sponsorship.

Payments of \$3,000 to the researcher and \$310 for typing expenses were made through an unidentified "cover" agency to a man described in a July 9, 1958, CIA memo as "an unwitting consultant" at Princeton.

The documents, 31 pages of "sanitized" material, were provided to Princeton by the general counsel of the CIA at the university's request.

Princeton asked for the information after being informed two weeks ago along with Rutgers University and 84 other educational institutions that they were sites for secret CIA-funded research conducted over a period of 25 years.

The CIA research program, under the code name of Project MK-Ultra, reportedly was pursued in an effort to

develop so-called "mind control" and behavior modification techniques for use on humans.

In releasing the material, Princeton officials stated:

"Neither project was sponsored by the university, nor is there any evidence that the university as an institution was involved in this research."

"I don't believe the university intends to pursue an investigation into the identity of these individuals," said Assistant to the President Dennis Sullivan. "We simply wanted to release this material for the record."

Under current guidelines for consulting work by faculty members at Princeton, classified research is generally prohibited, but unclassified work is permissible where it does not interfere with teaching duties.

No guidelines specifically cover unclassified research that is conducted for intelligence-gathering agencies of the government, which apparently was the nature of at least the 1958 research.

Documents relating to the 1953 chemical research talk of getting security clearance for the researcher, but are unclear about whether the topic was actually classified.

Sullivan said a study of the university's policy on consulting work for intelligence agencies was now more likely but would probably have occurred anyway because of Harvard University's recent adoption of such guidelines.